

## IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application. Kindly amend claims 1, 3, 6, 13 and 17 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for holding an annuloplasty ring, comprising:
  - a holder body configured to the annuloplasty ring;
  - a handle coupling configured mounted with the holder body to couple the holder body to the handle; and
  - a release mechanism coupled to the handle coupling to release the handle from the handle coupling.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 including a spring configured to bias the handle coupling into a lock position.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the button release mechanism is configured to transmit a force on the handle coupling against the spring toward an unlock position.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling includes an opening formed therein to receive a tip of the handle.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the tip is locked within the opening.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to couple to a knob protuberance at a tip of the handle.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the holder body includes an opening to receive the handle.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is non-circular.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is tapered.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the surface around the opening is raised to provide a gripping surface.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to slide within the holder body in a direction generally parallel with a plane of the holder body.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 including a handle.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein a tip of the handle includes a knob protuberance configured to engage the handle coupling.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the release mechanism comprises a button.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling comprises a clip.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the clip is slidable within the holder body and provides a locking and release mechanism.

17. (Currently Amended) A handle for coupling to an apparatus used in implanting a heart prosthetic, comprising:

an elongate shaft, a gripping portion coupled to one end of the elongate shaft, the gripping portion including ribs; and

a tip coupled to the other end of the shaft, the tip including a knob protuberance configured to be locked in the apparatus and an abutting surface configured to abut the apparatus.

18. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the handle includes flat portions.

19. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the tip includes walls and the flat portions of the handle are aligned with the walls of the tip.

20. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the tip includes walls.

21. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the walls are tapered.